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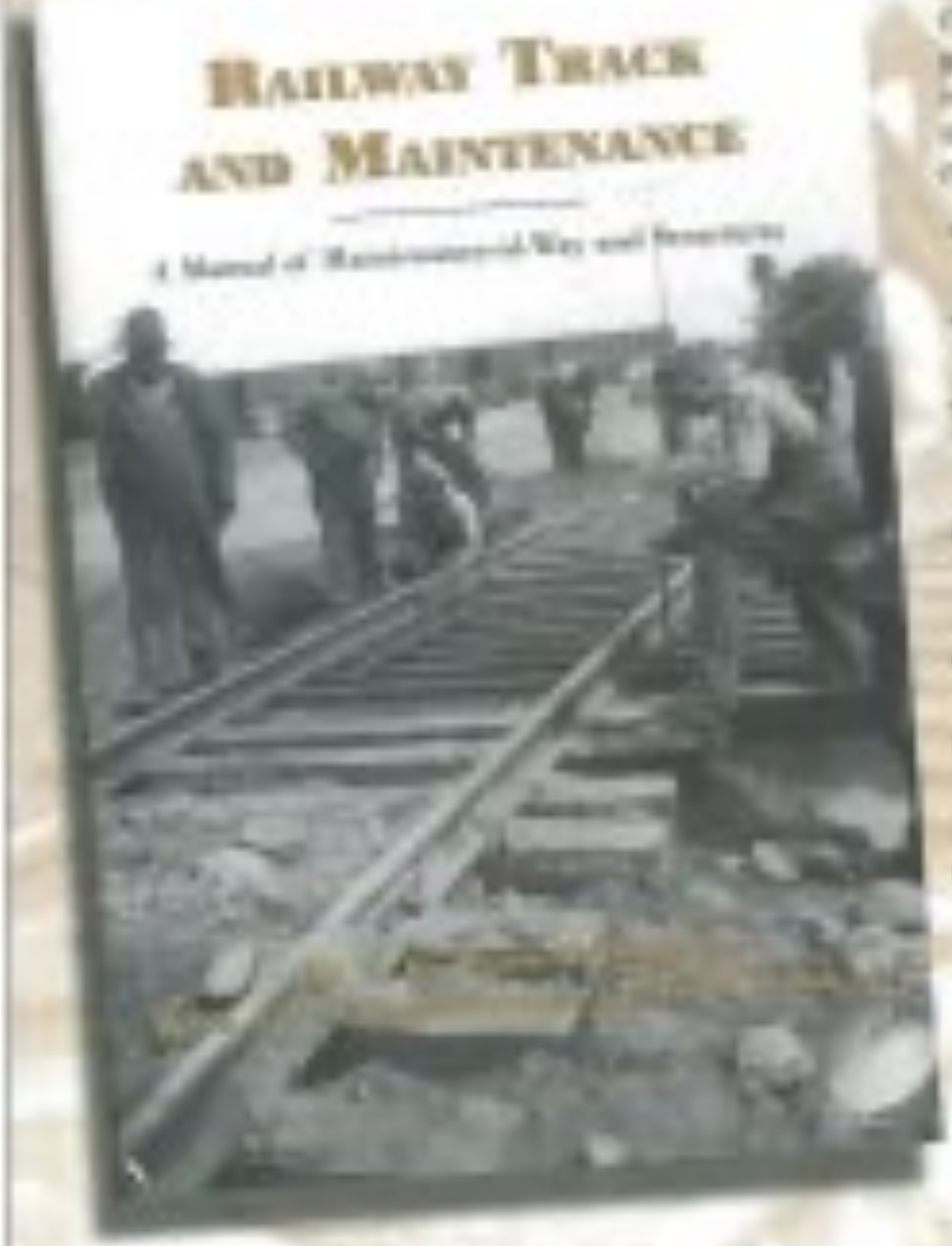

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Features

From Concept to Publication
M.R. Bird

Piedmont & Northern Railroad
Charles Aycock & Chip Youngblood, NMRA

ACF 3550 Center Flow Hoppers
Bill Reid

Small Die Tipple
Pat Hamman, NMRA

5 **Observation Car (editorial)**
Stephen K. Priest, 4687-editor

6 **President's Car (editorial)**
NMRA President, Charlie Case

34 **Attending a Swiss Convention**
Atlanta Division Hobby Clerks

38 **Window Cutting Made Easier**
Larry Gamon, NMRA

40 **Division Business Car**
The NMRA @ Home — Jim Dolan, 8687

44 **Research & Test Car**
Product Review: Woodland Scenics Sawmill

48 **Display Car**
Product Announcements — Todd Gillette

50 **NMRA Bulletin**
News from National Achievement Program

52 **Club Car**
Upcoming events

61 **Library Car**
Book and Video Reviews

62 **History is a Click**
From the NMRA Online Archives

63 **National Retailer Listing and Advertiser Index**

On The Cover

Join us for a personal tour of Hobby Town's Display & Training Railroad. This 5-scale/5-foot layout is the centerpiece of the store's popular Model Railroad Experience, and will be open to the public during the 2012 NMRA convention in Atlanta. — **Brian Swaglund, 6060 photo**

The Election Issue

Observation Car

nmra magazine

January 2011

nmra magazine

Increasing Membership

In my last column, I challenged you to consider how we can improve our membership numbers. I would like to offer some of my own thoughts. I want to add that my thoughts and opinions are certainly not superior to yours, and I also defer to the many wonderful volunteers who have currently enlisted memberships as testimonials thereto. You are currently the true heroes of our organization, but also have a keen insight to what attracts, and perhaps does not entice, model railroaders to the NMRA.

I mention that the path to model railroading that was typical of my childhood is no longer operative. As I mentioned in the November issue column, I received a Lionel train set as a child at the mid-1950s. For some reason, this did not lead me into model railroading. However, a few years later when I was 14 and interested, the Lionel path is not familiar to many of today's model railroaders. It was also inconvenient for the late 1950s and early 1960s city living boy to access a Lionel train set. Other than some hobby shops selling Lionel trains with scale trains and ultimately membership in our organization. Here, it would be a welcome and obvious conclusion that outreach to the younger generation is the way to secure our continued stability and growth as an organization. Sadly, I do not believe that an exactly reflection. I have to add that outreach to youngsters is an excellent idea and should be pursued wherever possible. However, today's children are [illegible] syndrome tempted by the Digital Age than any of their predecessors.

We now live in an age of virtual reality, which has almost supplanted the physical world. Computer games, social networking through instant text and video media compete for a child's attention. The value of interacting with people using computer technology is the lack of social [illegible] skills and values to a child's growth. What I was a kid, something could have encouraged me to develop interest. One that is no longer true. My kids are in [illegible] life, cars and perhaps some still assemble plastic model kits, but most are interested in computers from an early age. I do believe the concept is worth considering using among youngsters. Because the Train Engine [illegible] Addicts program [illegible] remain popular for many participants will manufacturers and hobbyists. Until then, however, I believe our emphasis should be on adult hobby demographics.

That demographic is the most active recently retired individual. Often empty nesters, meaning their children have grown up and gone to college, those adults find themselves with time and disposable income. I know of many times we were made aware of [illegible] who followed and participated in classmate reunions but were somewhat [illegible] when [illegible] model railroading we show with today we are. We [illegible] to reach this demographic you [illegible] to the magazine to their digital world. I know our Board is engaged in nationwide programs to [illegible] and my hope is what those efforts will be successful.

Another possible problem with us retaining our members is the misconception that joining the NMRA requires the purchase of "stuff" that includes the membership fee. How often have we heard about a member is not a train [illegible] documentation does not feel the material is "worth" the money invested. These individuals regard membership in the NMRA with the [illegible] of a model railroad product. If the product does not meet their expectations, they will not be repeat customers.

Again, the Board has tried to address this area by emphasizing the many benefits of membership including fellowship and educational opportunities. Involvement in a local club because of membership in the NMRA. After all, when industry adopts NMRA standards all hobbyists benefit and the internet and local clubs can provide the information and fellowship that the NMRA offers. Here, we are not in a unique position in that regard either.

This story seemed like a [illegible] more, until [illegible] reasons to join the National Model Railroad Association, that is surely one physical and probably would be a tough sell. Ironically, it is the most historic and important reason of all. The NMRA is a non-for-profit corporation and one of the few that is entirely dedicated to improving the hobby of model railroading. As you [illegible] organization, we are the most complete in the World [illegible] Standards [illegible] any other "clubs" that is supported by large numbers of the population. How [illegible] the NMRA is to history. Its benefit is to you. It is an educational, not for profit, organization that offers the most [illegible] to those in American [illegible] and [illegible] to others and [illegible] organizations.

President's Car

NMRA President Charlie Getz

[illegible] many [illegible] that [illegible] because they [illegible] support [illegible] and purpose [illegible] should [illegible] [illegible] is a valid reason to join. Also [illegible] you will get back a lot of "stuff" for your dues money, unless you [illegible] because you want to support these wonderful organizations

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE! Ballot is hallot inside.

and give back to the hobby that has given you so much.

When I talk to people about the NMRA, I mention that we have people in all of our organization and all the great we learn about the model railroading over the years. I also talk about other considerations organizations such as the Red Cross, Lenbrook Insurance Goodwill Industries. Many clubs now, the answer is yes. I don't ask about why they do so, and I'm answer is always people they want to support the good work done by these organizations. When you contribute to the Red Cross, they certainly do not expect you to "work" back their contribution! In fact, receiving benefits from the kind of you is normally a very bad sign – you're basically refusing a gift of kindness. Similarly, supporting Goodwill Industries and their outstanding work does not mean you anticipate receiving any particular items from Goodwill Industries. Yet, with the NMRA, many do expect to be rewarded for supporting our organization. In fact, many members join the NMRA because they want to receive more than they give in dues or membership fees.

I want to challenge that assumption and ask why the NMRA should differ from other non-profit organizations that are supported by our hobbyists. In other words, why support other organizations that have nothing to do with a hobby you enjoy but not support your local club?

In other words, perhaps we should appeal to the "people" of our hobby instead of those trying to justify the programs we offer or being worthy of the membership fee. It is not a hard sell, but perhaps not any harder than trying to sell the "fellowship" component of membership or the benefits we receive directly as part of the price for belonging to the NMRA.

Fortunately, the NMRA is blessed with many outstanding volunteers who are very good at signing up members. Our problem is not attracting new members, but rather retaining existing ones. I fear that many do not continue their membership because they do not see "value" in doing so. Perhaps thinking of NMRA as a different light will help. These are just my thoughts. I always welcome yours.

In other news, this month marks the mid-year meeting of the Board of Directors, which will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, the site of the upcoming National Convention. The convention promises to be a fantastic experience, and this year's convention committee is a fabulous one. I hope that you are planning to attend — it is not too early to register. Many times, including many before yours, will not disappoint you. I know that IBB President and National Convention Chairman Jim Gabanski and his crew have a very special treat planned for all of us, and I, for one, look forward to attending. I just wish the time for a special treat would be a little more convenient for me. I'm sure that I'll be able to make it work.

Conventions such as these offer attendees a chance to improve skills as a model railroader, interact with other like-minded hobbyists, and even make inspiring layouts. Attend a convention, and you will see why the hobby is unique in the United States, which is why it is growing in and from Europe to almost be a problem. Atlanta is a short train ride, and I'm expecting many visitors there in the past. I will report on the Board's actions in upcoming issues and as exciting developments happen. I will continue to keep you updated, so please stay tuned.

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Stay on Track

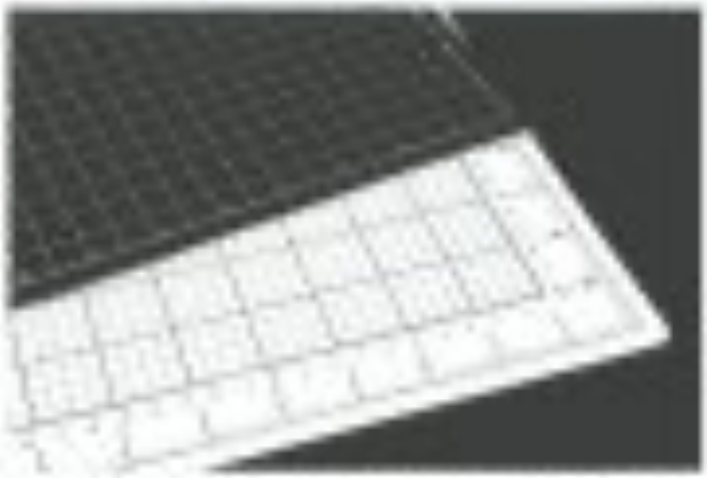
From Concept to Publication

Part 2: Photo Composition and Tips

JOHN ANTHONY MILNES

In last month's installment, we studied the basic mechanics of model photography. Let's now set the scene for composing capture photographs. Unlike many architectural subjects that have photographed in the past, model photography allows us to control the environment by manipulating various elements such as subject placement, framing, and lighting. The first rule of good composition is simplicity — remove extra distractions from the subject, use background elements which relate to the subject, and be aware of the angle from which the model is photographed. After all, how many of us have seen that ubiquitous "snapshot" of a model sitting on a dining room table with a window we're suddenly wondering the point of the model's manufacture.

Bold Style. These two photos illustrate the exact same scene and style of automotive photography. By varying the camera angle and zooming in the bottom photo, we've created a very unique model subject.



Under Lights: These two photos illustrate how different lighting can be used to create different moods. In the photo on the top, the light was placed to the front-left of the subject, creating a bright, cheerful image. In the photo on the bottom, the light was placed behind the subject, creating a more dramatic look.

Over Under: These photos illustrate good and bad locations for the camera in low-angle photography. In the first photo, the lights were placed at a 45-degree angle, creating unwanted shadows over the subject. In the second photo, the lights were all placed directly over the subject at a 45-degree angle, avoiding shadows and creating a more appealing effect.

Above: A simple reflector can be made from a sheet of white styrene. Once used to shed light into dark areas, it's useful both as the subject was created.

try to keep all the lighting facing the same direction. An example is how lighting creates shadows, and we want all the shadows to face the same way. In conventional-style photographs, you, with final intent, orient your lighting may be necessary under this manner the additional shadows will only provide a minor distraction. On the other hand, shadow-creating multiple directional sources are immediately destroy the photo.

Lastly, remember that White Balance setting on the camera! Don't forget to match the camera settings to the temperature of your lighting to avoid viewing the resulting red and blue!

Now that we have mastered the camera outdoors we homemade studio here shoot close and we go with photos! Last month, I introduced you to the concept and how your models. Keeping these audiences in mind now we can begin to concentrate each step of the process, focusing a photo to include the photos and the story.

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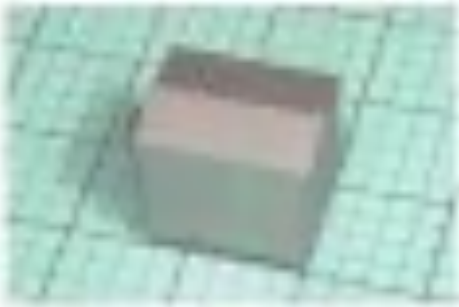
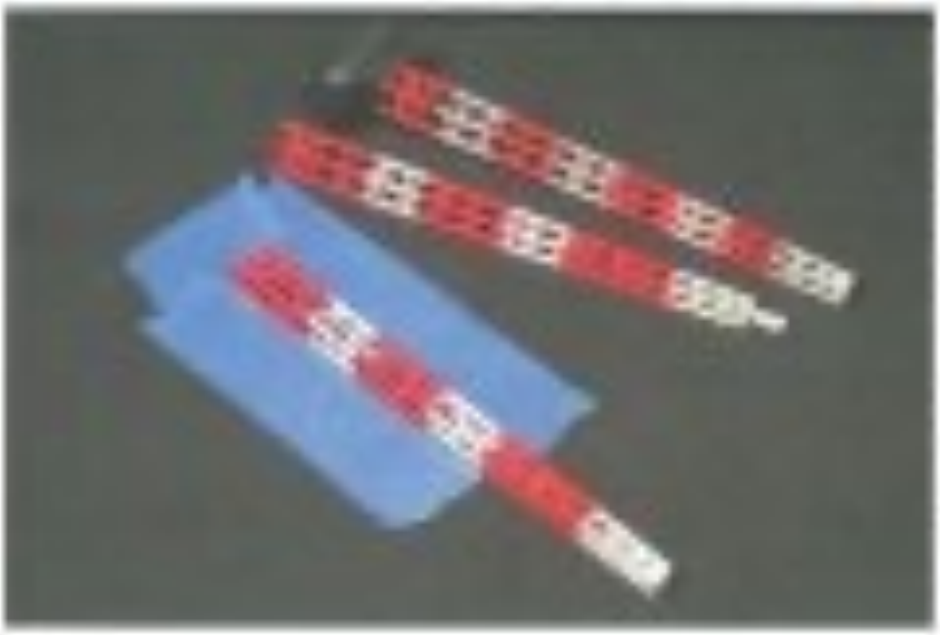


Right: One of the most successful multi-image photographs ever taken by a single camera-based device was this composite panorama, produced by joining together seven individual pictures taken by a Polaroid.

Below: This method of photographing a model is ideal for showing the relationship between the various parts of a complex object.



Three light. The group of three photos illustrates the concept of bracketing. The first photo is underexposed, the second photo is correctly exposed, and the third photo is overexposed. By using the bracketing method, the user generally ensures that at least one is correct.

camera/camera is to manually bracket your photos. I prefer to create an Interframe to find the perfect exposure value of the scene, which has always created me a usable photograph — even in the rubber circumstances. Simply shoot the light meter I your setting, then decrease the exposure time by several settings and take the first photo. Now increase the exposure time by one setting for each subsequent photo until the scene becomes completed.

By now I imagine you may be saying "shoot, a lot to take in." Well, I can offer one more tip that will greatly simplify processing the final product, regardless of how all the photos have been taken: photo cards. We've all sat down and looked through an album or online gallery of images (remember a location we picture of a photo we took? Concentrating a how to place our pictures that come here, except this time instead of taken and photos to specific angles, don't be alone, and you're complete with your camera. One easy way to remember the sequence used photos is to write a brief description of the setup you are shooting along with the time numbers and any relevant notes (such as Min. 7 Mid.) on an index card then photograph the index card with the model as a reference to this specific setup. You'll have your videographer record and point for the audio and video corresponding with the scene.

To be of more specific pause, this time we've revealed the background I've described. Consider documenting a simple product shot as interesting a Kicker complex photo experimenting with temperature, backlighting, these are two models you may find helpful when learning how to assemble the camera.

Above: Shoot, note, and save numbers to keep up with the setup. Below: Shoot a photo of the index card with the setup. Above: Shoot, note, and save numbers to keep up with the setup. Below: Shoot a photo of the index card with the setup.

Charles Aycock's Piedmont & Southern Railroad

Peachtree 2013 NMRA National Convention

story by Charles Aycock, photos by Brian Youngblood, MMR

In 1997, after many years away from the hobby, I built a 4x12-foot HO scale layout. When it was nearly completed, I realized I wanted a much bigger layout with broader radius curves. Renovation and procrastination caused another seven years to elapse before I began work on the 1995 NMRA National Convention theme prototype my layout is to satisfy. I immediately began designing what became today's Piedmont & Southern Railroad, a fictitious railroad whose purpose is main presented by double-headed steam or helper of multiple first-generation diesels rolling through lush summer scenery depicting northern Georgia in 1946–1951. The idea was to have multiple scenarios give a single user, or multiple railfans from his favorite periods. The primary focus is on the Southern Railway with freights to and from Atlanta, but also to include a passenger representing Seaboard Air Line, Atlantic Coast Line, Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis, and Louisville & Nashville railroads.

Layout construction

My requirements called for a fairly large operation layout on several sections extending to an 8-foot backdrop, and several staged hidden tracks ready to roll

Below: The theme is Summer has arrived on Charles Aycock's railroad empire and an M&E 4-6-0 switcher shoves a boxcar into a P&S grain house.

at a moment's notice. The latter encourages practicality, constructing a six-track staging yard under the operating level. Here, a capacity for building 25- to 30-car trains plus double-headed locos and power. The mainline winds across the hidden staging yard via two six-foot diameter helixes to connected into the main bench work at opposite ends of the room. Bench work is supported by legs off-set to a "dovetail". This unique idea saved valuable space that could then be devoted to the modules.

Benchwork, as an addition to the original layout, began in November 1994 for a "show date" 8½ months later. The entire bench plan including new components and scenery was drawn on four 4x8 foot sheets of 1/4-inch plywood joined together on the benchwork. On a "Cookie cut" and traced to the sheets of plywood. Once the cut-to-the-line was complete, the 4x8 sheets were separated and the benchwork was ready for the next step. Each module was numbered and major elements created for all surfaces with a hardware cap. For operational reliability, I chose Atlas Code 100 track and turnouts. Besides some soldering the rails, every three feet, and my large locomotives

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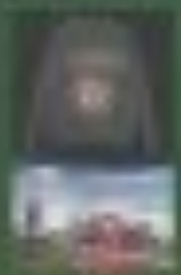

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Modeling a Pair of Kori-McGee ACF CENTER FLOW 3650 Hoppers

Article and photos by Bob Brandt

I recently discovered photos of two Kori-McGee ACF hoppers on a Canadian freight car site. A large part of this hobby for me is duplicating a prototype railroad's rolling stock for my HO modeling era. Using photos, sides, and interior, I am able to capture the correct look of actual freight cars that were operated on my Minneapolis-based Iron Gate model railroad.

The internet has become an incredible tool to learn how to build cars prototype freight car modelers. It's amazing what a prototype photo of a freight car that was rolled somewhere 50+ yrs. This research can duplicate the car paint scheme, lettering, weights, and various weathering patterns. Photos of these ACF 3650 hopper are perfect examples. MKT 43971 and ACF 43798 can be modeled using these photos. Fortunately, there's no big upgrade. Most ever produced these cars to their AAR car paint schemes, lettering, stenciling, and weathering. One of the best shots Kori-McGee cars could be found in various locations, however, I needed an address and inspection details. The grab irons and steel walk on standard AC Athearn Blue Box hoppers and would certainly need to be replaced using wire grab irons and .015 thick styrene through out the car. I also wanted to install the ejector rod cranks and operating cranks on the prototype photos. Since the photos were taken at the time of the 1970's, I would also be able to duplicate the rust weathering found on the ACF's and the fresh paint jobs on the ACF CENTER FLOW hoppers.

Both trains: The finished models are ready to be placed in service. Using them to replace the cars I have upon my layout, keeps me the satisfaction of a prototype modeled "nothing on and nothing over project a true scale model look."

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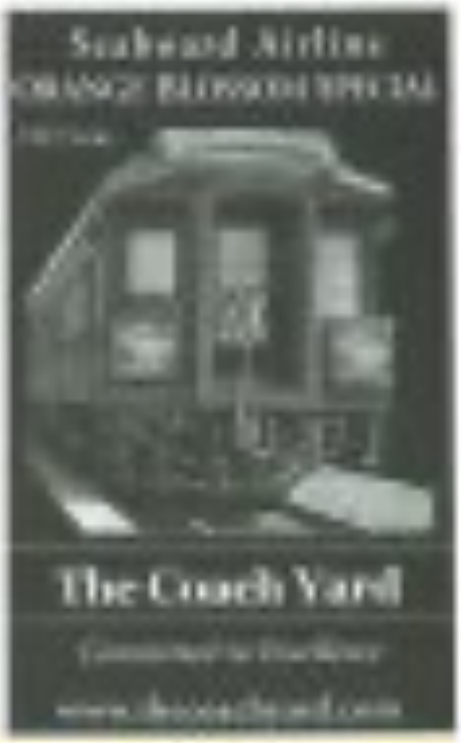

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A Swiss Convention

The Atlantic District Promotes the NMRA

article and photographs by Bobby Clarke / Atlantic District Director

Switzerland is not a country that you would normally associate with North American model railroads. I was pleasantly surprised to find a thriving community of Swiss-based Americana railroaders who have just held the 15th such package, first-convention in the Zurich suburb of Affoltern (in June 7th/8th). Werner Meier and his many hard-working American railroad-themed conventions since the early 1990s.

Their deadline was passed before volunteers could the numbers coming through the doors were reaching heights that you've never seen before. Sadly, the 15th convention was also the last. Werner feels its time to hand over the responsibility to a younger team. The trouble is, no one seems to have come along to take the reins.

I became involved after Werner very kindly invited my team and me to bring the Atlantic District's publicity booth to the event. We set up a U.K.-model railroad layout and a large assortment of buildings. The first thing that struck us as very evident from the start is just how large the U.S. and Canada is. Europe is small, with many countries packed into a relatively small area. Switzerland is a good example of this. Within a few hours' drive you can be in Germany, France, Italy or Austria. Switzerland is a very small country, and its railroads are very small. Most of the railroads in Switzerland are narrow gauge, and the trains are very short. Even the largest locomotives are relatively small. Most of the railroads are electrified, and the trains are very quiet. Switzerland is a very quiet country, and its railroads are very quiet.

Above and right: The Swiss layout. Photos courtesy of Bobby Clarke, the Atlantic District.

down to Bodegraven, Germany, in 2014, where we had the Atlantic District booth on display. I think he was impressed that some Swiss modelling American railroads would travel such distances expenses to share hundreds of miles away to share a hobby and help us the success of NMRA membership.

We arrived at the school where the convention was to be held after flying in from the UK on Late Friday afternoon. The big school had a large assortment of buildings. The first thing that struck us as very evident from the start is just how large the U.S. and Canada is. Europe is small, with many countries packed into a relatively small area. Switzerland is a good example of this. Within a few hours' drive you can be in Germany, France, Italy or Austria. Switzerland is a very small country, and its railroads are very small. Most of the railroads in Switzerland are narrow gauge, and the trains are very short. Even the largest locomotives are relatively small. Most of the railroads are electrified, and the trains are very quiet. Switzerland is a very quiet country, and its railroads are very quiet.

Above and right: A few examples of the layouts on display.

the large number of people who came to support the event. I was also to find a large number of people who came to support the event. I was also to find a large number of people who came to support the event.

Cutting Window and Door Openings Made a Lot Easier

I tackled two large construction projects this past year and found a method to cut window and door openings in an easier way than I had used before. I first built a wood mill with 90-plus openings for my cribbage sled. After that — following the palm of my hand in the process — I cut numerous openings with what would eventually have 30 window and door openings. I decided there had to be a better way.

I don't like to spend all projects time on the inspiration time out. Commonly used circular saw guides and router jigs for cutting out window openings are not cheap, but I did not want to take that time to make one. Luckily, there is an immediate access to a similar product that I have. I sliced without success. I started having cut the windows and doors for the intended purpose, and the thought that my wife would use it. So I decided to make a drill press do exactly the same thing? The answer is yes. Thinner and softer materials like basswood or 1/4" or 3/8" plywood can be punched with the blade. Use any sized a hardwood blade underside material to cut a simple blade sharp as long as possible and to be able to cut cleanly through the material. To cut without the blade through thicker, denser materials, because the wood metal blades can shatter and shrapnel can go flying around a room. The smaller the blade width, the more chance there is for a shattered blade to happen, but metal resists shatter is still break. Be careful and always wear safety glasses.

The smaller 3/4" (19 mm) diameter straight handle (for drill presses with 1/4 inch and 5/16 inch chucks). The larger diameter straight handle for 1/2" (13 mm) blades needs a 1/2 inch chuck. It is important to verify tightness the blades in the handles so the blades stay in the handle and not the cutting slot when you start the blade. You should hold the material down when removing the blade. Also, keep your fingers away from the blade!

I learned that as much of an improvement over my cribbage sled as I thought the cribbage sled was an improvement over cutting windows and door openings with a straight edge and circular knife. The tools shown below the prominent of a right angle drill for corners but is much better on larger openings than either a right angle drill or cribbage sled.

Additionally, here's a tip on laying out windows on structure. Lay it flat and mark the top part—that keeps water outside. Also, don't believe any pre-cut windows and doors are square. I square and trim the openings with a drill (sheet sander). The risk disappears with this process as it's time for planning. I'm not plugging upon the possibility, but there would be one.

I hope this information can help you in cutting openings in structures and keep a few more pounds on your side. There, not a lot of window and door openings can cheer in accidents! Just a collection of ideas on building for a home.

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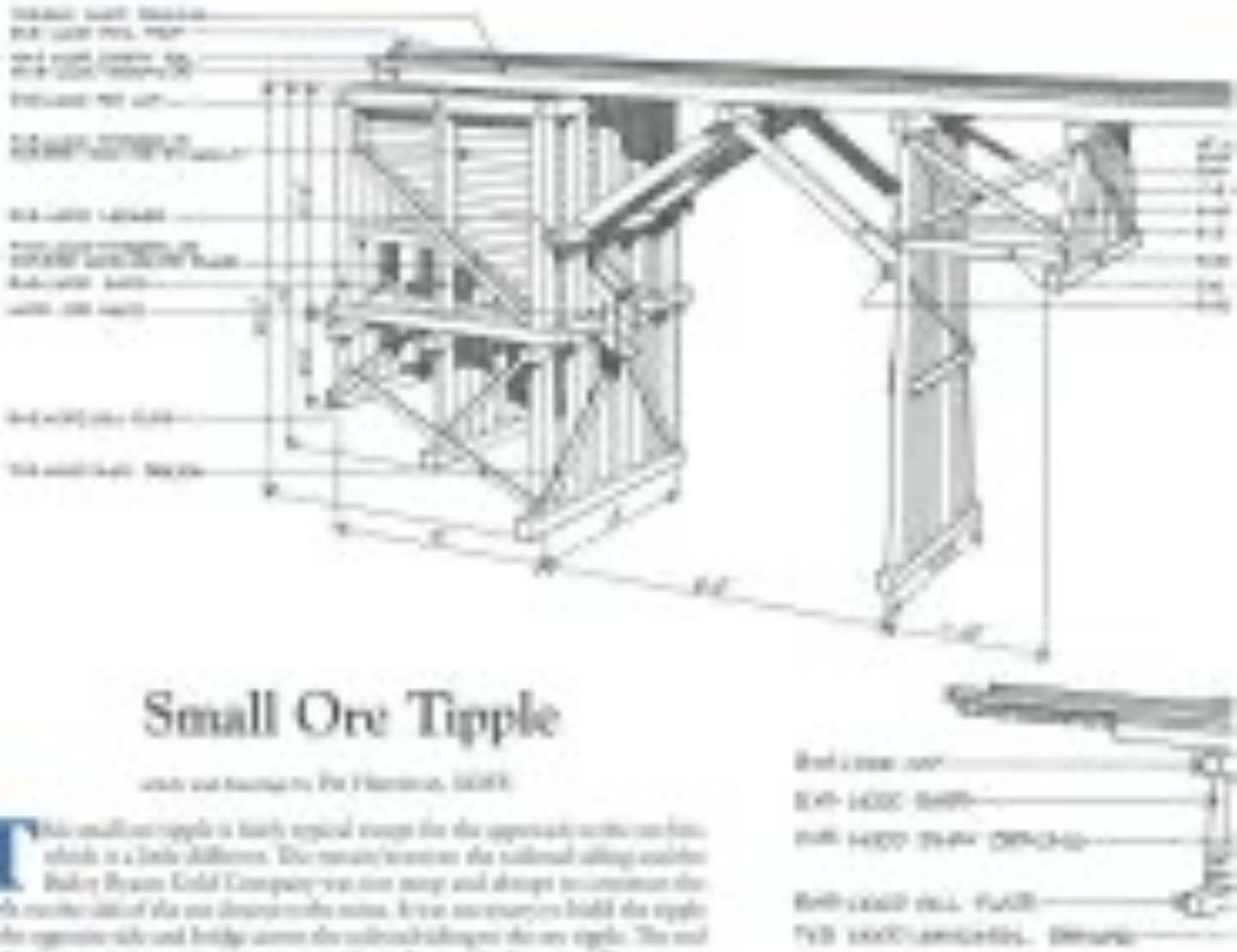

Small Ore Tipple

HENRY ANN KNAUFF, PIT HISTORIAN, GEORGE

This small ore tipple is fairly typical except for the approach to the ore bins, which is a little different. The narrow-gauge railroad sibling southern Bailey Branch Gold Company was very steep and abrupt to minimize the tipple erection cost of the ore dumped to the mine. A car was necessary to hold the tipple on the opposite side and bridge across the railroad alongside the ore tipple. The end result was a severe downgrade approach and ore dump trestle just as well as a more traditionally placed ore tipple. The ore is moved from the mine car to small ore dump cars by hand alongside. Hand gauge track across the trestle to above the ore bin and dump the ore into the top of the ore tipple. The ore then runs down the ore bin and down through the ore tipple to the ore railroad car to above the mill for processing.

The ore bin is a wooden structure of a wood wood siding and strip wood. All the building material should be pre-treated with Preservative Marker Class 34 creosote preservative. Despite its functionality, the combined pieces and assembly will still pass pass-by. Other minor methods framing should be jointed gusset and metal and wood shingle siding gives it the overall appearance. Nail holes made with a straight pin are also easy framing construction as the ore collection. Weathering with rubber gasketed shafts or plastic the sides of the car is more effective. The weathering should be set with water hampers or bend.

The model railroad accessory store approaches 5,000 sf. Accessories are featured in a publication complete with dimensioned plan and elevations. Early Wood Frame and Masonry Structures is available for $24.95 plus $3 S&H from Kalmbach, 9301 Dodge Lane, Overland Park, KS 66212. Part three publication, Early Wood Frame and Stone Structures is still available for $24.95 plus $3 S&H. Each publication contains 40+ buildings designed specifically to fit the limited space typically available on a model railroad layout.

Division Business Car

the NMRA @ home

Reminder: Division Train Is On Days Only!

Welcome to the first Division Business Car Column for 2015! Another fun opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Once we were in your hands for the first time. Don't you feel like we've been doing this forever? Well, probably because some of you have been reading this column for the first time. Until you've been with us for a while, you may not know that this column is usually about what goes on within NMRA Divisions. However, as the opportunity arises, I like to include NMRA Regions. They're made up of a number of Divisions within the same geographical area, and are more commonly a member of one of those two. In addition to Divisions and Regions, this column also covers more broad-based subjects like what NMRA HQ is working on. The whole purpose is to share ideas. If some Divisions come up with a cool idea for a program or a project that would work in other Divisions, you'll read about it here. If a Region develops a new way to organize conventions, layout tours, I'll tell you about it. If a NMRA Golden Member Club wants to try something new, I'll let you know. Or if you have a question or some challenge you're facing, I'll do my best to help you find an answer.

Besides Divisions, Regions, and NMRA club activities, several months ago I started talking to [illegible] about [illegible] I've been working on [illegible] and I've been [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Using the NMRA Members Only Website

Finding articles mentioned in Division Bulletins can be fast and easy! It's going to the Members Only website's very interesting member. The first step is navigation. If you haven't already done so, click on the "Register" icon on the top left of the page, then follow the instructions you find there. From that point on, just the "Member Login" icon on the home page to access Members Only content. Once you've logged in, you'll see a "Member Search" box on the right side of the page. Enter your NMRA number in the box and click "Search." Your membership record will appear. Clicking the box will open the Member Only content page. Here you will find "Valid Interests" for various links. The section we're in (which? "MEMBERSHIP." Click on it and you'll find links to all the articles mentioned in the Division Bulletin/Cat. To locate Division-specific information, always go to the page followed by the state name, and province. Once you find the article you're looking for, click on the link under the column describing it. Now sit back, and read away!

first loop the Grinch. Now, as we agree, pioneering your Division's next signature public project, you have the chance to avoid some of the issues you faced, and you're good to go. You could also use the format to make facts signs for your next Division Registration Fee.

I got this idea by way of an e-mail from Tony Bonan, MMR, Superintendent of the Eastern Iowa Division of the Mid-Continent Region. In his e-mail, Tony asked Division members to turn in their old railroad signs so they could be recycled into layout signs for the Division's 50th Anniversary Weekend in April.

Great idea, Tony. Now if only the public at large would be so helpful as to recycle!

Sharing the Wealthy Wealth

If you're like me, you've probably bought a lot of stuff so that you could meet Layout. And if you're like me, much of it is now covered, and taking up space, could have come in very handy for somebody else's layout. This was the subject of a discussion by Tony Bonan, Superintendent of the Eastern Iowa (no, not the Mid-Continent) Region. For the record, Tony Bonan and the Eastern Iowa Division don't do anything these political signs. Tony reported to a conversation he had with fellow Division member Pete Jones, MMR. Pete made the observation that some woodworking materials are valid to working operators they could take a single wooden 2 x 4 piece to use. Why not share them among Division members? So, that's exactly what the Division is doing.

Using an e-mail group and a website for "donated use" by members (see the story on with books from the Division library. Just as with the books, story users be reminded to specify them to allow other members to use them. That got me to thinking that the idea could be carried to include other hobbies and necessities. Specialized tools comes to mind. Decisions things like contest building (up or even grass applicators, etc.) or would take a look at who owns what and maintain a long record of who has borrowed what, and when it should be returned. It's more than just a Division project. Division or NMRA Members Only could say: Why not suggest it at next year meeting?

A Whitewash Caboose for a Contest

At a Master Model Railroader, I am an ardent supporter of the NMRA Achievement Program. A recent part of a merit-building schedule and getting them judged on your own work the MCR. Awards you need an extremely serious an MMR. Unfortunately, one of the biggest misconceptions about the Achievement Program is that every model submitted for judging must be unbelievable. While some models must indeed be unbelievable, the rest may be super detailed detailed. If the scheduling is done well and at least some of the details are unbelievable, a model can get enough points to be awarded a Certificate.

A case in point is the caboose kitbash done by George Gilbert, a member of the 1099 NMRA member Dairy Lakes Model Railroad Club in Wisconsin. George de- cided how to kitbash a caboose in a scene around the kid's conference. On Time Later Then, in addition to pictures of the model, George included the judging paperwork with his descriptions of how he created a base. Backscene from wood "bobbins" or bases from a supply shop/hobby store. Bar blocks, Scrap wire, smashed PVC pieces and an attach. Model Award Certificate. There's a lot of creative thinking going on here. It has been posted on the Members Only Website. Just scroll the sidebar to find out how to access and download it.

By the way, if you're a new member and are wondering what this Achievement Program thing is all about, go to the main NMRA in "Website" at www.nmra.org and look over on the left side of the home page under the Education heading. There, you'll find a link to the Achievement Program. Click once and you'll find out all about this wonderful way to reward and recognize model railroading your modeling skills.

A Cheddar Freight Fleet on the Cheap

Suppose you wanted to assemble a fleet of freight cars for your layout, one where the cars would look good and be fairly well detailed. You could build your fleet from scratch or kits. But, if you've got the time. However, if you'd like faster results, you could buy some highly detailed, highly expensive, ready-to-run examples or that on to the occasional diary diner. The single most for a small layout or even a large one, if you have limited spending resources. What if you don't have time or, even better, a big enough or regular diner? Or even worse, you don't have a handy diner to go? Well, the answer for the least effort + cash may be hard for freight car fans. The article in the March issue of Model Railroader magazine Crystal Palace Diorama, explains how to solve the problem.

Basically, the article tells about the model and other manufacturers who've been working to make them available. Starting with detailed cars that look like the prototype, but are relatively inexpensive, and then adding some simple detail changes and careful weathering, the Orlando team finally were able to produce 40 ft. box cars that look like the prototype — in smaller quantities of course. If you'd like a closer look (and did all this and see photos of the impressive results he achieved, check out his article for yourself. You'll find this one on the Members Only website too. Again, check the website for more details.

On the Road with the President

While commemorative of the event is over by the time you read this, I was able to take a photo with a photo shot I thought I'd just have you.

Last Wednesday there a New Mexico newspaper photographer caught NMRA President Gary Lee's and Assistant Administrator Connie Hinrichsen apparently lost somewhere in the Land of Enchantment.

Hopefully, they'll get interested in more railroad topics in the future."

We can only hope. After all, President Lincoln's interests went up to the standards of those used by railroad presidents I could name. Rumor has it Mr. Obama is somewhat directionally challenged as well. The good news is that he has the better part of five months to find his way to Atlanta.

We had little to do with the interesting presentations in the "Railroad MOW" segment of the photo and the marketing survey, which was explained in more detail at the many that will be open for access over the course of the National Convention, July 16–20, in Atlanta, Georgia.

There's a lot more to do at the convention besides layout tours. Take clinics for example. There will be a selection of them called "Civil War Tracks." They will spotlight diverse railroad-related and around Atlanta during the Civil War. These special clinics will be presented by staff members of the Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History (a Smithsonian affiliate) located nearby in Kennesaw, Georgia. To complement the clinics there's also a presentation over on the museum until the historic Kennesaw Battlefield. After we say to another presentation of the last many called "The Great Locomotive Chase." This tour will follow the route taken that Andrews Raiders and their Confederate pursuers took after the Raiders captured the "General" locomotive and the pursuit that followed. Seven heated two guide will narrate it.

In addition to traveling to the past modern NMRA Conference Experience promises new additional insight into the future. This one goes to American Freight Technologies in Peyton Springs, another Atlanta suburb. There visitors will get to see and ride on prototype demonstration freight locomotive from a the company's main test facility.

Now, there's enough time to visit many of the sites on the Peachtree Express. Until last evening was used to visit Stone Mountain, just a few miles away. Also, please find your way back here to spend the money from the Division Business Car.

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Research & Test Car

Locomotive Models & Kits #68
Hoosgow, Shenkworks & Conference Department

Reviewer
Mountainair Scientific Station's
Roswell
NM Branch

Reviewed by Gary Hoover

Remember the days when you bought a structure kit at the hobby shop, opened the box to find hundreds of individual color-coded pieces of injection-molded plastic of all sizes and shapes, and an instruction sheet that resembled a psychedelic road map? All the models followed by weeks of building, painting, and weathering. Well, those were, and still are, enjoyable ways to spend time for many modelers, your author included. But let's face it, most customers today, schooled on low-cost benchwork for the great things in life, this model railroading I've come, spending weeks building structures just isn't their thing. Enter Woodland Scenics Landmark Structures. Here is a complete line of ready-to-plant structures that are not only extremely well detailed, but also extremely inexpensive compared to similar kit structures.

I have to admit that before the Woodland Scenics Depot I mentioned showed up in the mail for me to review I had only casually glanced at the finished structures on the hobby shop shelf. Once I removed the carton sample and examined it more closely, it became apparent that these were very nicely done structures that would blend in to even the most detailed layout. So, let's examine the assembly of this model.

Starting at the top, the roof I modified through slightly overlapping the front board to provide thicker adhesive-coated area. Several the shingles have been thinned for viewing considerably over years of service. Removing from the roofing are two smoke stacks and three antenna bases. As an example of the attention details the small bitumen cover of the three stacks (the one I'd made thinner). The other roofs

Here's how with a pair of Woodland Scenics Walls & Roofs Landmark Structures. The structure is pre-built, painted, weathered, and ready to install on the layout.

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by Todd Gilbertson

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HO Scale

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NMRA BULLETIN

Changed your address or other membership information?

[redacted]

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[redacted]

REGION PRESIDENTS

[redacted]

[illegible]

Mid-Central Region
John Poch, Brunswick, Ohio

Mid-Eastern Region
Douglas Agee, York, South Carolina

[illegible]

Mid-Continent Region
Jerry Hill, Blue Springs, Missouri

[illegible]

Mid-Central Region
Jerry Kennedy, Charleston, West Virginia

Midwest Region
David Allen, Marquette, Michigan

Northeastern Region
Bill Robbins, Jersey Point, New York

[illegible]

Mid-Continent Region
Mike Pryor, Shawnee, Kansas

Mid-Central Region
John Reynolds, Cleveland, Ohio

[illegible]

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Mike Pryor, Shawnee, Kansas

Northeastern Region
Bill Robbins, Jersey Point, New York

Pacific Northwest Region
Bruce McCosh, Boise, Idaho

Rocky Mountain Region
Mark Evans, Riverton, Utah

[illegible]

Mid-Continent Region
Mike Pryor, Shawnee, Kansas

Northeastern Region
Bob Robbins, Jersey Point, New York

Rocky Mountain Region
Mark Evans, Riverton, Utah

[illegible]

Mid-Central Region
Bruce Puccini, Huntington, West Virginia

South Central Region
William Moore, Indian Creek, Michigan

Western Lakes Region
Richard Todd, Grand Forks, North Dakota

[illegible]

Midwest Region
John J. Mann, Cherry Valley, Illinois

Northeastern Region
George Tann, Baldwinsville, New York

[illegible]

Lone Star Region
T.J. Mitchell, Bremen, Texas

Mid-Continent Region
Robert Johnston, Jr., Bryan, Missouri
Joe Blum, Jr., Luray, Missouri

Mid-Eastern Region
Lionel Fitzgerald, Charlottesville, Virginia

Northeastern Region
Howard Dwyer, Saratoga, New York

[illegible]

Rocky Mountain Region
Mark Evans, Riverton, Utah

Mid-Continent Region
Jerry Hill, Blue Springs, Missouri

[illegible]

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Club Car

[redacted]

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EVENTS

Corvallis, Oregon, Reunion—[redacted]

Corvallis, Oregon, Timetable—[redacted]

Arkansas, Springdale—[redacted]

Arkansas, Springdale—[redacted]

California, Anaheim—[redacted]

California, Bakersfield—[redacted]

California, Pasadena—[redacted]

Delaware, Wilmington—[redacted]

Florida, Pensacola—[redacted]

Florida, Plantation—[redacted]

Georgia, Atlanta—[redacted]

Georgia, Atlanta—[redacted]

Illinois, Collinsville—[redacted]

Illinois, Lincolnshire—[redacted]

Illinois, Mount Prospect—[redacted]

Illinois, Rockford—[redacted]

Kansas, Wichita (Kansas 101 Model Railroad Club)—[redacted]

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If interested please contact
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History in a Click

Text by Stephen M. Priest, NMRA

A merger between Electro-Motive Corporation and Fairbanks, Morse & Co. produced the Alco PA and the larger, more powerful A-1-A diesel the Alco FA in 1946. These units were designed for freight and passenger service. Before the FA and PA designations. Designed by GE's Ryan Parsons, the first unit FA-1 cab unit sold a total of 366 units with the 2Bs. Power accounting for an additional 369 units for Alco. Also featured the FAU basic design were sometimes FA-2 designations and a Canadian counterpart the PCA-4. The FPs and FPB were offered as a four-axle dual-service unit equipped with a steam generator for passenger service. Internally the same were powered by a Model 244 prime mover rated initially at 1,500 hp and later upgraded to 1,800 hp on units delivered after 1950. The New York Central took delivery of its first units on February 1947. Unfortunately, the Alco 244 prime mover was probably the weakness of the FA because of its poor fuel economy. Illustration by New York Central #1A-1, 1928 painting of "Golden Arrow" locomotive with all horns, Michigan — RMC Lenox Collection

The NMRA Online Archive

Just consider a collection of paper trips, just a mouse click away. Our organization's history has grown so astounding a rich reality that, to guide your interest, to help your pondering, to further your understanding, NMRA members can download high-resolution photos, drawings, diagrams, and much more just for each. Visit www.nmra.org and click on "NMRA Online Archive." What do the letters begin?

Erratum: Last month's Basic Control Kit was written by Mike Brandt HLM. Our apologies for the error.

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